



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAM COURSE PROPOSAL COVER FORM

Courses submitted to the GSC between 2/1 and 4/30 if approved, will be effective the following Spring.

Courses submitted between 5/1 and 1/31 if approved, will be effective the following Fall.

(SUBMISSION VIA ADOBE.PDF FILES IS PREFERRED)

DATE 18 January 2009

- 1. ACADEMIC UNIT: School of Government, Politics and Global Studies
2. COURSE PROPOSED: SGS 484 Natural Catastrophe and Urban Response-Italy 3
3. CONTACT PERSON: Name: Thomas J Puleo, PhD Phone: 480-727-0790
Mail Code: 5102 E-Mail: tpuleo@asu.edu

- 4. ELIGIBILITY: New courses must be approved by the Tempe Campus Curriculum Subcommittee and must have a regular course number.
5. AREA(S) PROPOSED COURSE WILL SERVE. A single course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area.

Core Areas

Awareness Areas

- Literacy and Critical Inquiry-L
Mathematical Studies-MA CS
Humanities, Fine Arts and Design-HU
Social and Behavioral Sciences-SB
Natural Sciences-SQ SG

- Global Awareness-G
Historical Awareness-H
Cultural Diversity in the United States-C

- 6. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED. (1) Course Description (2) Course Syllabus (3) Criteria Checklist for the area (4) Table of Contents from the textbook used, if available
7. In the space provided below (or on a separate sheet), please also provide a description of how the course meets the specific criteria in the area for which the course is being proposed.

The course covers the deployment and development of baroque architecture, planning and philosophy in the aftermath of the natural disasters that destroyed Catania, Sicily in 1693.

CROSS-LISTED COURSES: [X] No [ ] Yes; Please identify courses:
Is this amultisection course?: [X] No [ ] Yes; Is it governed by a common syllabus?

Chair/Director (Print or Type) Chair/Director (Signature)
Date:

TEMPE SGS 394 Special Topics

Covers topics of immediate or special interest to a faculty member and students.

**Academic Group & Organization:** Liberal Arts & Sciences - School of Government, Politics and Global Studies

**Allow multiple enrollments:** Yes

**Repeatable for credit:** Yes

**Primary course component:** Lecture

**Grading method:** Student Option

The course covers the deployment and development of baroque architecture, planning and philosophy in the aftermath of the natural disasters that destroyed Catania, Sicily in 1693.

Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

**HISTORICAL AWARENESS [H]**

**Rationale and Objectives**

The lack of historical awareness on the part of contemporary university graduates has led recent studies of higher education to call for the creation and development of historical consciousness in undergraduates now and in the future. From one perspective historical awareness is a valuable aid in the analysis of present-day problems because historical forces and traditions have created modern life and lie just beneath its surface. From a second perspective, the historical past is an indispensable source of national identity and of values which facilitate social harmony and cooperative effort. Along with this observation, it should be noted that historical study can produce intercultural understanding by tracing cultural differences to their origins in the past. A third perspective on the need for historical awareness is summed up in the aphorism that he who fails to learn from the past is doomed to repeat it. Teachers of today's students know well that those students do not usually approach questions of war and peace with any knowledge of historic concord, aggression, or cruelty, including even events so recent as Nazi and Stalinist terror.

The requirement of a course which is historical in method and content presumes that "history" designates a sequence of past events or a narrative whose intent or effect is to represent such a sequence. The requirement also presumes that these are human events and that history includes all that has been felt, thought, imagined, said, and done by human beings. The opportunities for nurturing historical consciousness are nearly unlimited. History is present in the languages, art, music, literatures, philosophy, religion, and the natural sciences, as well as in the social science traditionally called History.

Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

<b>ASU--[H] CRITERIA</b>			
<b>THE HISTORICAL AWARENESS [H] COURSE MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:</b>			
YES	NO		Identify Documentation Submitted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. History is a major focus of the course.	Course description and syllabus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. The course examines and explains human development as a sequence of events.	Course description and syllabus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. There is a disciplined systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time.	Course description and syllabus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. The course examines the relationship among events, ideas, and artifacts and the broad social, political and economic context.	Course description and syllabus
		<b>THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses in which there is only chronological organization.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses which are exclusively the history of a field of study or of a field of artistic or professional endeavor.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses whose subject areas merely occurred in the past.</li> </ul>	

Course Prefix	Number	Title	Designation
SGS	394	Natural Catastrophe and Urban Response: Baroque architecture and planning in Catania, Sicily	H

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the **specific** designation criteria. Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

Criteria (from checksheet)	How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)	Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)
1: Course takes a historical perspective.	The course concentrates on events which occurred in Catania and Lisbon in the late 17th and middle 18th centuries: natural disasters and the urban reconstruction that followed each of them.	Each daily lesson plan engages a humanist development in its historical context. Each of these is marked with an "H". The only exceptions are one lesson plans that treat only theoretical issues: June 16.
2: Course presents sequence of events.	These catastrophes catalyzed and informed the historic and contemporary architectural and planning characteristics of these cities and their hinterlands, as well as spurring renewed contemplation and discourse on nature/culture relations.	The course is divided into three one-week lesson plans: event, response and reconstruction, which chart the sequential development of the destruction and reconstruction process.
3: Course investigates human institutions changing over time.  4: Course examines events, artifacts and ideas in political, economic and social context.	Each period of natural destruction and urban response and reconstruction is contextualized economically, politically, socially, culturally and environmentally, necessitating examinations of the empire, church, patronage and colonialism as well as natural systems.	Daily lesson plans engaging criterion 3-changing institutions: June 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15; criterion 4-artifacts and ideas in context: June 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19.

**SGS 394: Natural Catastrophe and Urban Response-Italy**  
**Baroque architecture and planning in Catania and Val di Noto**

Catania, Sicily  
31 May -20 June

ASU Summer Study Abroad 2009  
M-F 9:00-12:00

Thomas J. Puleo, PhD  
School of Government, Politics and Global Studies

[tpuleo@asu.edu](mailto:tpuleo@asu.edu)  
3 units

**Topic:** In 1693, Catania, Sicily suffered a very strong earthquake that largely destroyed it and its surrounding region. This disaster ignited deep contemplation and fervent discourse on the relationship between humans and nature locally and abroad. Yet this destructive event also spurred a renaissance of this area, most notably as it ushered in the use and transformation of baroque architecture and planning in its reconstruction. The catastrophe and the subsequent reconstruction projects continue to have a profound effect on the economic activities and cultural identities of Catania and Val di Noto.

**Goals:** To investigate the process of natural and social place destruction and creation using various methods so as to develop: a historical awareness of the transformation of the two cities and regions because of the disasters, an understanding of the role of the humanities, fine arts and design in this transformation, and literacy and critical inquiry skills in multiple and varied engagements with the topic.

**Catania and Val di Noto, Sicily (31 May 2009 – 21 June 2009)**

**Event: Before and during the earthquake of 1693 (31 May -7 June 2009)**

31 May: Students arrive in Catania

- 1: Natural and social place making and destruction (Johns 1999, Puleo 2007) [Welcome dinner!]
- 2: Pre-1693 baroque architecture and planning in Sicily (Mack Smith 1968b, Blunt 1968 1) **H, HU**
- 3: Baroque architecture and planning in Europe (Mumford 1961 1, Benevolo 1993) **H, HU**
- 4: Geomorphology of quake and ensuing topographic destruction (Pietanisi and Tinti 1998) **H**
- 5: Field trip: Etna (Bonajutus 1694)
- 6: OFF
- 7: OFF

**Response: Causes and Meanings (8-14 June 2009)**

- 8: Moral and philosophical understandings and expressions of the event (Mack Smith 1968a 1) **HU, H**
- 9: Political-economic context: Spain, Church, Nobility (Mack Smith 1968a 2, Tobriner 1999) **H**
- 10: View of and from Italy (Giuffrè 2007, Neil 1998, Blunt 1988 1) **HU, H**
- 11: Rebuilding Noto Cathedral: (Tobrer 2003, Baronio et al. 2003, Binda et al. 2003) **HU, H**
- 12: Field trip: Siracusa, Noto and Palazzolo Acreide (Blunt 1968 2, Vittorini 2000 1) **HU, H**
- 13: OFF
- 14: OFF

**Reconstruction: Birth of the Sicilian baroque (15-21 June 2009)**

- 15: Sicilian Baroque architecture/planning: forms, methods (Tringali et al. 2003, Tobriner 1982) **HU, H**
- 16: Parasite logic: analyze, paralyze, catalyze (Brown 2002, Sciascia 1994) **HU**
- 17: Design as social representation: (Blunt 1988 2, Deleuze 1993, De Benedictis 2003) **HU, H**
- 18: Local-global perspective on Val di Noto and Sicilian baroque (Tingali 2003, Puleo 2009) **HU, H**
- 19: Field trip: Caltagirone, Ragusa, Modica and Scicli (Blunt 1968 3, Vittorini 2000 2) **HU, H**
- 20: OFF
- 21: **Flight: Catania-Lisbon!** (Details shall be forthcoming)

**Assessment** You will receive a grade based upon your performance on daily response papers for critical thinking (35%), weekly field reports for analysis (35%), and class discussions for oral literacy (30%). Performance will be evaluated for how clear, complete, comprehensive, connected and convincing it is.

**Attendance** You must attend every class. If you are ill or have an emergency that causes you to miss class, you must bring documentation of the illness or emergency.

**Plagiarism** It is essential that you be graded only on your own work. ASU takes charges of cheating and plagiarism very seriously, and either can result in your dismissal. Cheating is taking advantage of the work of others. Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own, without giving appropriate credit. Also, although interaction and the sharing of ideas are strongly encouraged both inside and outside of the classroom, each student is responsible for turning in his or her own written material with the appropriate references to materials used (such as books, papers and web resources), as appropriate. Plagiarism entails serious consequences, including failing grades on the specific assignment and possibly the course. Everyone should be familiar with ASU's standards of academic honesty which is available at: [www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi104-01.html](http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi104-01.html).

**Readings:** All required readings will be posted on the course website for you to download, or will be handed out in hard copy when a digital copy is unavailable. Specific assignments appear in parentheses following each daily assignment. Please see reading list for details.

### Reading list

- Benevolo, Leonardo. 1993. "The difficult adjustment to the laws of perspective". *The European city*. Oxford and Cambridge: Blackwell Publishing: 124-159.
- Baronio, G., L. Binda, C. Tedeschi, C. Tiraboschi. 2003. Characterisation of the materials used in the construction of the Noto Cathedral. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 557-571.
- Binda, L., C. Tiraboschi, G. Baronio. 2003. On-site investigation on the remains of the Cathedral of Noto. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 543-555.
- Blunt, Anthony. 1968. *Sicilian baroque*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson: (1) 1-15, (2) 16-23, (3) 24-29, (4) 30-43, (5) 44-45.
- Blunt, Anthony. 1988. *Baroque and rococo art and decoration*. London: Wordsworth Editions Ltd. (1) 22-63, (2) 84-105
- Bonajutus, Vincentius and Marcellus Malpighius. 1694. "An Account of the Earthquakes in Sicilia, on the Ninth and Eleventh of January, 1692/3". *Philosophical Transactions* (1683-1775), 18: 2-10.
- Brown, Steven D. 2002. Michel Serres: Science, translation and the logic of the parasite. *Theory, Culture and Society*, 19, 3: 1-27.
- De Benedictis, R. 2003. The partial reconstruction design of the Cathedral of Noto: part II: The naves system. *Construction and Building Materials* 17: 603-612.
- De Carvalho, A. Ayres. 1993. "Dom João V and the artists of papal Rome". In *The age of the baroque in Portugal*, ed. Jay A. Levenson, 31-48. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Deleuze, Gilles. 1993. "What is baroque?". In *The fold*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press: 27-40.
- Giuffrè, Maria. 2007. *The baroque architecture of Sicily*. London: Thames and Hudson.

- Mack Smith, Denis. 1968a. *A history of Sicily: Medieval Sicily: 800-1713*. New York: Dorset Press: (1) 243-270, (2) 271-300.
- Mack Smith, Denis. 1968b. *A history of Sicily: Modern Sicily: After 1713*. New York: Dorset Press: 171-199, 211-231.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1961. *The city in history*. San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt: (1) 344-374, (2) 375-409.
- Neil, EH. 1998. Noto, ideal city and urban space in 18th-century Sicily. *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 57, 4: 471-473
- Pietanesi, Alessio and Stefano Tinti. 1998. A revision of the 1693 eastern Sicily earthquake and tsunami. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 103, B2: 2749-2758.
- Puleo, Thomas. 2009. Involuntary mischief: oblique agency and the Sicilian baroque. *California Italian Studies* (under review).
- Puleo, Thomas. 2007. Filling in the blanks: Translating among systematic geographies. *The California Geographer*, 47: 63-77.
- Sciascia, Leonardo. 1994. *Sicily as metaphor*. Marlboro, Vermont: The Marlboro Press.
- Serres, Michel. 2007. *The parasite*. Minneapolis, London: University of Minnesota Press: 3-40.
- Tobriner, Stephen. 2003. Building the Cathedral of Noto; earthquakes, reconstruction and building practice in 18th-century Sicily. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 521-532.
- Tobriner, Stephen. 1999. "Safety and reconstruction of Noto after the Sicilian earthquake of 1693—the eighteenth-century context". In *Dreadful visitations: Confronting natural catastrophes in the Age of Enlightenment*, ed. Alessa Johns, 49-80. New York and London: Routledge.
- Tobriner, Stephen. 1982. *The genesis of Noto: An eighteenth-century Sicilian city*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press: (1) 20-24, (2) 25-42, (3) 43-53, (4) 54-108, (5) 110-141, (6) 142-199, (7) 200-204.
- Tringali, Salvatore. 2003. The partial reconstruction design of the Cathedral of Noto: part I: the social-economic impact on the town and on the territory and the cross-vaults, arches and dome system. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 595-602.
- Tringali, Salvatore, R. De Benedictis, R. La Rosa, C. Russo, A. Bramante, C. Gavarini, G. Valente, V. Ceradini, C. Tocci, S. Tobriner, M. Maugeri, L. Binda, G. Baronio. 2003. The reconstruction of the Cathedral of Noto. *Construction and Building Materials*, 17: 573-578.
- Unesco 2002. *Late baroque towns of the Val di Noto (south-eastern Sicily)*. Paris: Unesco World Heritage Centre. Available online at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1024>. Last accessed on 13 January 2009.
- Vittorini, Elio. 2000 (1951). *Conversations in Sicily*, trans. Alane Salierno Mason. New York: New Directions Books: (1) 1-79, (2) 82-182.